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Activities of the Communist Farty of Peru During August 1948

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General Situation of the Communist Party of Peru (PCP) During August 1948

The most important event of the PCP during the month of August was the III National Congress, held in Lima from 22-31 August 1948 (cf.

2. No definitive assessment of the relative strength of the orthodox FCP and Juan F. Luna's group is yet possible. The National Congress afforded the orthodox Party a chance to strengthen its hand throughout the country, by means of the influence it exerted over the forty-odd delegates who attended the conference from outlying provinces and departments. In the Lina area, Luna's group had the majority of pro-Communist support.

### Political Activity

3. The Party was principally concerned during August with determining the attitude it would adopt toward the Constituent Assembly Decree of 5 August . Party opinion was finally crystallized in the Communist Manifesto of 28 August, and in the statement issued by the Convencion de Partidos Democraticos on 27 August, which was signed by Communist Deputy Juan Jacinto Paiva as Political Secretary of the Convention.

### KIV Lima Departmental Congress

- 4. The XIV Lima Departmental Congress, called by the "Comite Reorganizador", was inaugurated the evening of Saturday, 14 August, and sessions of the Congress began the following day,
- 5. The Congress was regarded as more than usually important in view of the defection of Juan P. Luna, former Secretary of the Lina Departmental Committee, of substantial numbers in the Lima area. Every effort was made to have as many Lima cells and entities represented as possible. One important task of the Congress was the election of a new Lima Departmental Committee, Transportation was provided where necessary to assure the attendance of provincial delegates.

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bout fifty persons attended the inaugural session, Saturday evening at 9 p.m., at PCP Headquarters, Colmena, 669, Lima, and about thirty delegates took part in the sessions of the Congress. About fifty delegates had attended in previous rears, the most important missing delegates being those from the tramways, civil considuation workers, autobuses, taxi drivers, and textile workers who have gone over to Luna.

- The inaugural session was opened by speeches by Ancelmo Farias and Eliceo Garcia, the emphasized the importance of the Congress and the significance of the split in the Party. Farias and Garcia violently attacked Luna and his group, stating that their action could only lead to increased gains on the labor front by "those enemies of the people: imperialism and the APRA." The significance of the defection of Alipio Orbegoso and Juan Polo, two leading Communist labor organizers in the Lima area, was pointed out.
- The first regular session was held the following day (Sunday) at 9 a.m., which was the only daytime meeting of the Congress. The remainder of the sessions opened at 3 p.m. and continued until 1:00 or 2:00 in the morning, since the majority of the delegates had daytime employment.
- 9. The first business on Sunday was the election of the Praesidium of the Congress, which was composed of Federico Iriarte, Secretary of the Comite Reorganizador, Julian Huanay, and the delegate from Huaral, whose name has not been reported. In agenda of six points was agreed upon:
  - a. Reorganization of the Party cells in the Department of Lina.
  - b. Initiation of an all-out campaign against Trotskyites and divisionists within the Party.
  - e. An all-out struggle against the "anti-Communist campaign ordered by Wall Street and its agents, who are spread throughout the Continent, penetrating even the heart of the Communist Party."
  - d. A campaign to increase the wages of the laboring classes, who should be provided with cheaper and more sanitary housing, and to advocate stricter food controls and lower food prices.
  - e. Full support of the forthcoming III National Congress of the PCP, and fulfillment of its Conclusions and Resolutions.
  - Full collaboration with other Communist Parties of the Hemisphere in the struggle against American Imperialism; opposition to such Imperialist plans as arming the Hemisphere with American arms under the guise of "Hemisphere Defense."
- 10. Nothing concerning the local political situation appeared on the Agenda, since such problems are left to the Political Commission of the PCP and the III National Congress.
- 11. The following points were discussed during the course of the Congress:
  - a. Complete reorganization of Party cells in the Department of Lima, including a completely new list of cell committees and group leaders, and the



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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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establishment of a series of "Technical Committees" to study the Party's problems in the Lima area.

- b. Organization through these rechnical Committees of courses and schools in Marxism, recruiting techniques, training in Farty work, and other points of vital importance.
- c. Naming a competent and capable Finance Committee to reorganize entirely the finances of the Lima Departmental Committee.
- d. Organization of a large Syndical Secretariat, for the purpose of capturing control of as many unions and labor organizations as possible, with special emphasis on the Union Sindical de Trabajadores de Lima (UCTL), and with the ultimate goal of controlling once again the Confederacion de Trabajadores del Peru (CTP). Comment. Both the USTL and the CTP were firmly in the hands of the Apristas at that time.)
  - e. A campaign as a "task of honor" to combat the anti-Communist campaign now carried on by the "agents of Imperialism", by Trotskyites, and by others.
  - f. Renting of new quarters for the Lima Departmental Committee, separate from the headquarters of the Communist Party in Lima (Colmena, 669), where the Lima Departmental Committee could hold its own social and labor gatherings, etc.
  - 12. The importance and the difficulty of the struggle against Luna was emphasized again and again. It was reported by a member of the Central Committee and by various delegates that Luna was launched on a full recruitment campaign, and that collisions had been produced in Lima cells visited by representatives of the expelled members for the purpose of convincing loyal Party members to join the Luna group. In some instances this has reportedly led to fisticuffs between the two groups, with the orthodox Party the winner in each case, according to Central Committee sources.
  - 13. During the closing sessions a motion was presented by (fnu) Poma, a delegate from the Rimac District, recommending the expulsion from the Party of Juan Barrio and Ernesto Rojas Zavala, based on documents prepared by the VII Plenary Session of the Central Committee which had requested an accounting regarding the Party press and the Party bookstore.
  - 14. Barrio was accused of having invested less than the authorized sum on the Party press, thus renting it, rather than purchasing it, as directed. Although the remainder of the sum granted Barrio was apparently invested in the Party bookstore, Poma's resolution expelling Barrio was carried and embodied in the Conclusions and Resolutions of the Congress. This resolution was subsequently presented for the approval of the III National Congress. It was recommended that the case of Rojas be studied by the new Lima Departmental Committee, when selected, and that its conclusions be presented for action to the III National Congress.
  - 15. The Departmental Congress closed Saturday evening, 21 August, with the reading and approval of the Conclusions and Resolutions of the Congress, including the unanimous agreement to expel Juan Barrio. The new Lima Departmental Committee was also elected to hold office for a period of two years. The following seven active members of the PCP from the Department of Lima were chosen:

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### CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Jose Marcos Godino

- Secretary General

Segundo Del Mar

- Secretary for Organization

Jose Reccio

- Secretary of Press and Propaganda

Julian Huanay Angel Flores de Faz - Secretary of Economy

- Syndical Secretary

Cesar Moneloa

- Secretary of Culture

Victor Gomez

- Secretary of Discipline

- Jose Marcos is a primary school teacher by profession, and to avoid the law furbidding teachers to hold office in political parties, he uses the name Marcial Solis Lira in anything made public by the Party. For the same reason, Flores de Paz, a primary school teacher holding a job in the Ministry of Education, uses the name Lorenzo Rumi. Cesar Moncloa is also employed in one of the Ministries, and is therefore known as Benjamin Franco for similar reasons in anything published by the Party.
- Alberto Ferrari was originally named Secretary of Culture, but declined to serve on the basis of residence in Chosica with the resulting difficulty of working regularly in Lima. Monclos was chosen to replace him.
- 18. Both Segundo Del Mar and Victor Gomez are employed at the Party press, Empresa Graftica Cutenberg, the former as a typesetter, the latter as eashier, and they are numbers of the Celula Gutenberg. Segundo Del Mar has recently arrived in Lima and was formerly an active member of a Party cell in Cuzco.
- 17. Jose Reccio is at present Administrator of the Party newsorgan Labor, and a member of the Committee Pro-Labor Diario. Julian Huanay, the author of a Marxist labor booklet with wide circulation in Lima entitled Silaborio Sindical, is reportedly well-known in Farty circles, both in Feru and Chile, where he has made two visits. He is at present said to be working as a taxi driver, and owns his oun cab.
- Each of the above Secretaries of the Departmental Committee is expected to form his own five-man Secretariat, with a report of these names due following the III National Congress. Hugo Levano was named delegate from the Departmental Committee to the Juventud Comunists.
- The following were selected by the Congress as delegates from Lima to the III National Congress:

Victor Gomes Julian Huanay Segundo Del Mar Jose Reccio Alberto Ferrari (Representing Chosica)

### Political Commission: Control Commission

At a meeting of the National Control Commission on 16 August 1948, Alipio Orbegoso, Adolfo Ocampo, and Alfredo Alvarez were expelled from the PCP by the Commission. Adolfo Ocempo, a university student, had previously declared himself to be on the side of Luna, and he had served as an officer of the student group which was organized by the dissidents. The expulsion of Alfredo Alvarez had been recommended to the Control Commission by the local Committee of the PCP of Morococha in a communication dated 29 July 1948.

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## According Universitaria: Juventud Commiste Persons

In reports were received during the month concerning the activities of the orthodox Fraccion Universitaria.

The Juventud Communista Peruana held a meeting on 19 August at Colmena, 669, to plan their participation in the III Mational Congress and to consider the publication of an issue of Estrella in time for the Congress. It was reported that available funds were insufficient to bring out a number of the newspaper, and a money-raising "Dance Matines", sponsored by the JCP to raise funds for the bring out a great success, and only a very small sum was raised - probably insufficient to publish another number of the newspaper. None appeared through the end of August.

# Movement of Prominent Communist Personalities

- In addition to travel to and from Lima by delegates to the III National Congress of the PCP, the following movement of prominent Communist personalities was reported during the month of August 1948.
- The Dissidents had successfully organized a group in Huacho, and at the beginning of August, Jorge Del Prado determined to travel to that area and do what he could to counteract Luna's influence there. It is reported that his trip was a failure. Addressing a well-attended meeting in Huacho, he was listened to in stony silence and was informed at the close that his audience remained loyal to the Lima Departmental Committee, refusing to recognize the authority of the Central Committee until measures taken against Luna and others had been retracted.
- 27. On 4 August, Eliceo Garcia, National Syndical Secretary, travelled to Huaraz to attend the Departmental Congress of Ancash, and to confer with local members on delegates to be sent to the III National Congress at the end of the month. He returned to Lima on 8 August. On returning from his trip, Garcia reported that the Party was in good shape in the Department of Ancash, and that Lunn and his "campaign of infamy and treason" had had little success there. He reported that the Secretary of the Departmental Committee of Ancash, Marcelo Canchez, had worked hard at recruiting, and that a meeting was planned in Huaraz for 10 August to approve the National Congress delegates and to implement their local program of higher wages, lower rents, and lower food prices.
- 23. Cesar Nieto, a member of the Lima Departmental Reorganizing Committee, travelled to Arequipa and Cuzco for the similar purpose of conferring on delegates to the III National Congress from these Departments. Nieto returned to Lima in time for the XIV Lima Departmental Congress on 14 August.
- 29. Omar Zilbert, National Secretary of Economy, travelled to Tarma on 6 August to explain recent events in Lima and the expulsion of Juan P. Luna. He attempted to counteract the effects of Luna's propaganda in the Tarma area through lectures and conferences with local Party leaders. He was to emphasize the importance of sending carefully chosen delegates to the forthcoming III National Congress. A Provincial Congress of the PCP was scheduled to be held in Tarma during his visit, to select the National Congress delegates.
- 30. On 7 August, Ancelmo Farias, National Secretary of Organization, travelled to Canta, also to attend a Provincial Congress of the PCP and to explain the expulsion

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of Lunn and the necessity of sending correctly chosen delegates to the Mational Congress. Farias also planned to travel throughout the entire province of Canta to counteract the effects of Luna's propaganda in the

- The Secretary General of the PCP, Jorge Del Prado, travelled to the central sames, accompanied by Hugo Levano, Communist youth leader, on 10 August, to cenfer with local leaders and to help with the selection of delegates to the National Congress.
- 2. Del Prado visited only the Province of Huarochiri, Department of Lina, and upon his return to Lima, he stated that his trip had been a complete failure. He had been obliged to leave Levano behind in Matucana, suffering from a nevere attack of "soroche". Del Prado said that no one in the region had been notified of his coming and he therefore had been able to confer with only seven Party officials there. He blamed the Lima Organization Committee for this situation.
- on 11 August, Juan Barrio returned to Lima from Cuzco after an absence of some months, during which time he had travelled through the Departments of Ayacucho, Aburimac and Cuzco. Barrio was optimistic as to the results of his trip. He reported that he believed the Party had increased in strength, not only in Cuzco but also in Apurimac and Ayacucho, in spite of the force of the strong anti-Communist campaign put on by the Apristas in those areas.

### Contacts and Correspondence with Communists Abroad

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- On 6 August, a review published in French arrived at Communist Party Headquarters from 12, Rue de Port-Mahon, Paris (2), France, entitled France Nouvelle. There was a letter or circular inside which was delivered to Jorge Del Prado. The magazine is reportedly edited by the French Communists, and the address is said to have been used by the World Federation of Trade Unions as well.
- of Guatemala. The communication was received on 11 August by the PCP from the Communist Party of Guatemala. The communication purports to forward to the Communist Parties of Latin America news received from Moscow concerning the demonstration on 9 July held by the Moscow student youth movement in protest at the persecution of Pablo Meruda by the Government of Chile. Two thousand people are reported to have requested the Communist Parties of Latin America to undertake a campaign against the Government of Gonzalez Videla, "which is acting at the orders of Yankee Imperialism." That night the Moscow radio is said to have paid homage to Meruda, the poet and the victim of Imperialism, demanding that he be given his just rights.
- The communication further stated that many members of the Communist Party of Costa Rica had taken refuge in Guatemala, where they would be protected. It outlined as one of the Party's principal tasks in Guatemala the campaign against the continued occupation of Belize by "British Imperialists". It is alleged that this campaign has the full support of Arevalo, who is said to be a close friend of leaders of the Communist Party of Chile and of Chilean Deputy Cesar Godoy Urrutia.
- 37. As previously reported (SO-16347), Jesus Chinas and Manuel Fernandez visited Peru in preparation for the Tampico Petroleum Workers Congress. During their visit, they talked at length with Eliceo Garcia concerning the PCP situation. Since Luna himself and Alipio Orbegoso of the Luna group have close ties with Lombardo Toledano, it is believed that the latter's sympathies lie with the dissident faction.

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Boletin Latino Americano del CTO continues to arrive at Communist Party Caldquarters, reportedly brought by hand by crew members of ships touching at Callao, and distributed from there. The Bulletin is published by the Comite de Asuntos Latino-Americanos, Congreso de Organizaciones Industriales, 15 Union Square, New York, 3, N. Y. These bulletins are slow in arriving, the latest seen during August 1948, is that dated "New York, Otono, 1947".

A publication entitled URSS, Revista Editade nor la Seccion de Imprinacion de la Levacion de la URSS en al Universal has been received by Rosa Hurvitz at the Party bookstore. The number received (Ano 1, No. 22, dated Montevideo, 30 October 1947) is reported by Ernesto Rojas to have been sent not for sale but as a sample copy for free distribution, with a request to report the number of current issues that could be disposed of regularly in Lima.

### Publications

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Several new Communist publications have appeared during the month of August 1948 or have been seen first in Lima during that period:

Amanta is a twelve-page, tabloid-size monthly newspaper published in Puquio, which is in the Province of Lucanas in the Department of Ayacucho. The number for July 1948 is headed Year 1, No. 3. The paper is edited at Puquio, Jiron Boliwar 48, by three PCP members:

Pedro Lujan Mansilla, Director; Manuel Salcedo, Editor-in-Chief; Miguel Galindo, Administrator; also an official of the local Provincial Committee of the PCP.

b. The first issue of El Metalurgico, which states that it is the organ of the La Oroya Metalurgical Workers, appeared on 28 July 1948 and reached Lima during August. It is edited in La Oroya and is printed in Lima at the Communist Party press, Empresa Grafica Gutenberg, San Marcelo 374. The PCP is strongly represented in the Sindicato de Trabajadores Metalurgicos de La Oroya, and the newspaper appears to be completely Communist-controlled. A second number of El Metalurgico appeared on 21 August, announcing the resignation of Gosar Calderon, prominent Communist Labor leader, as Secretary General of the Sindicato de Trabajadores Metalurgicos de La Oroya. As reported in certain Party groups in Lima believe that Calderon was "bought off" by Gerro de Pasco. The directors of the newspaper, all Communist members, are as follows:

Artemio C. Baldoceda, Editor; Sesar Levano, Editor-in-Chief; Eulogio Salazar, Administrator.

c. A review known as <u>Divulgacion</u> first reached Lima during August. Printed by the leftist group of students of the <u>University San Agustin</u>, Arequipa, it is edited by two members of the <u>Communist Party</u>, Elias Castilla R. as <u>Director</u>, and Edwin Keira A. as <u>Jefe</u> de <u>Redaccion</u>. Antonio Gonzalez, who serves as Administrator of the review, is reported to be a <u>Socialist</u>, and the review has a broad <u>Socialist</u>—Communist outlook. The issue dated 28 July 1948 is numbered "Ano 1, No. 2".

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First numbers of the Communist weekly tebloid, <u>Liberacion</u>, of Arequipahave also arrived in Lima. The newspaper is edited by Augusto Chavez Bedoya V., P.O. Box 222, Arequipa. The issue for 21 August states that it is "Ano 1, No. 4".

Labor, the Communist Party organ published in Lima, and <u>Jornada</u>, the Party organ in Cuzco, continued to appear regularly during the month of August.

#### Macellaneous

- Al. In preparation for the III National Congress, a Departmental Conference of the FOF was held in Cuzco on 14-15 August, and was attended by the Secretaries of the Provincial and District Committees of the Department. Delegates to attend the National Congress were selected by the Conference.
- A2. The II Departmental Congress of Puno was held 10-13 August in the town of the same name. Delegates to the III National Congress were selected and vicente Mendoza Diaz was re-elected Secretary of the Puno Departmental Committee.
- in returning from the central mining areas on 30 July, Juan Lopez brought with him a decument dated 29 July, signed by the Morococha Local Committee and the Ticlio and Allpa-mina cells. This document stated that Antonio Barzola and Alfredo Alvarez had been barred from local headquarters, and requested the expulsion of Alvarez for his cooperation with the Luna group in Lima. The document was delivered to the Control Commission for action. The expulsion of each was subsequently ratified by the III National Congress.
- 44. Jorge Del Frado received a letter early in August from J. O. Monteverde, pledging the allegiance of the Departmental Committee of Loreto to Del Frado and the Central Committee. The letter frankly admits that the Loreto Committee is weak in organization and that it is laboring under a thousand difficulties. This is one of the very few Communist communications from that area which have been reported.

#### Juan P. Luna and His Dissident Group

- 45. The most important gain registered by the group of dissidents lod by Juan P. Luma, during the month of August, was the final defection of Alipio J. Orbegoso from the orthodox Party. Although Orbegoso's pro-Luma sympathies were well known, no conclusive action had been taken by him up to the latter part of July.
- 1948 and open letter dated 28 July 1948 and printed in <u>Bandera Popular</u> for 7 August 1948 under the banner headline, "Member of the Central Committee Denounces the Group of Traitors in the Leadership of the Communist Farty of Peru", Orbegoso finally broke with the Central Committee group and announced his support of Luna, signing himself as "member of the Central Committee and of the Political Commission of the Communist Party of Peru."
- 47. Orbegoso's claim to be a member of the Central Committee and of the Political Commission of the orthodox PCP was immediately attacked the following day in a statement signed by the National Commission for organization of the latter. The statement denounced Orbegoso and pointed out that he had been suspended as a member of both by the VII Plenary Session of the Central Committee. A week later,

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on 16 August, the Party Control Commission expelled him from the PCP as a breaker to the Party and to the laboring class."

Orbogoso is an important figure for three reasons: first, because of his influence with the port and dock workers; second, because of his close association and friendship with Lombardo Toledano; and third, because of his function ar liaison between Communist crew members of ships touching Callao and the PCP.

The contact that Orbegoso affords the Luna group with Lombardo and the CTAL is particularly important. Orbegoso is reported to have received a communication from Lombardo expressing the latter's sympathy with the Luna position and doubt concerning the attitude of the Central Committee.

Jutside of the city of Lima, the Luma group was reported during August to have succeeded in winning over a substantial number in the town of Huacho, where a Previncial Committee which follows the dissident "Lima Departmental Committee" has been set up. A meeting of this Provincial Committee was held on 29 July, attended by Juan Polo and Odon Espinoza as Luma's representatives. The following officers of the "Huacho Provincial Committee" were elected:

A. Diaz - Secretary General

M. Panana - Secretary for Organization

R. La Cruz - Secretary for Press and Propaganda

E. Carreno - Labor Union Secretary
P. Llanac - Secretary for Economy

t. The meeting was attended by the following delegates from the Province:

District Committee of Carquin - P. Llanac E. Carreno

District Committee of Santa Maria - G. Valladares

A. La Cruz

W. Uniti

Local Committee of Huacho - J. La Rosa C. Collantes

E. Barreto

Cell of Portuarios - M. Castro

T. Pla

Cell of las Talinas - A. Diaz

V. Diaz

A. Sanchez

Cell of la Industrial Limitada de Huacho - M. Panana

- In Lima, the Luma group announced the formation of a new cell, the "Calula Dimitrov", among the Communist youth of Lince. The new cell meets at Mariscal Las Heras, 557, every Sunday morning, under the leadership of Doria.
- 53. Meanwhile the warnings circulated by the Central Committee that Jose Carlos Mariategui Chiappe was not a member of the PCP have provoked a reply from the

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District Committee of Miraflores, now wholly pledged to Luma. The Committee stated that for six months Mariategui has regularly attended meetings of his cell, in addition to being "for many years" an enthusiast and a sympathizer with the Party. The statement is signed by Pedro Quiliano, Secretary of the Committee, and Isaac Loayza, Secretary of Press and Propaganda of the Committee.

- The Fraccion Universitaria Commista of the dissidents continued to meet during the month and singled out Saturnino Paredes Macedo as the orthodox Party "villain of the piece", expelling him from the dissident FUC as an agent of the divisionists guilty of "intrigue and confusion". Paredes had previously signed a statement on behalf of the orthodox FUC.
- 55. Two numbers of Bandera Popular appeared during August, and the newspaper now uses P.O. Box 160 for its correspondence. This P.O. box is registered in the name of Carmelo Moreno Espejo. Moreno's house at Jiron Callao, 706, is used for all important meetings of Luna's adherents. Larger meetings are still held at Mariscal Las Heras, 557.

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